

Washington Star, Wednesday, Oct. 6, 1971

Chou

File

Thaw Move Was Mao's, Chou Says

By JULIAN SCHUMAN

PEKING (UPI) — Premier Chou En-lai said last night that despite U.S. and Chinese diplomatic reluctance Mao Tse-tung was responsible for inviting the American ping pong team to China, an invitation which signaled a thaw in Sino-American relations.

During his two-hour meeting with the Americans, including

Chinese Premier Chou En-lai invited every American living in or visiting China to a meeting last night in the Great Hall of the People. Among the 60 Americans reported present was Julian Schuman, who has been living in Peking for some time. His report of that meeting is transmitted by United Press International.

Black Panther party leader Huey P. Newton and former U.S. State Department officer John Service. Chou conducted a free-wheeling discourse on China's foreign policy.

Chou said:

- China agrees with President Nixon that this is now an era of negotiations, but Chinese leaders also feel that, if necessary, it is an era of armed struggle.

Border Dispute

- China is willing to negotiate its border dispute with Russia, using the 19th Century territorial treaties as the basis for talks.
- China is keeping an open mind on Nixon's visit: "It is all right if the talks succeed and it is all right if the talks fail."
- No matter how far negotiations go, China will never let her guard down and stop preparing for war.

Chou said the decision to invite the American ping pong players was made by Mao at a time when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the U.S. State

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Department attitude was to wait for a while.

Chou said he himself was looking over a preliminary Foreign Ministry dispatch regarding the American table tennis team in Japan when Mao decided on an immediate invitation.

"There were two messages, but the world only knows the second," Chou said.

Tells of Second Visit

Discussing Nixon's visit, Chou said, "He (Nixon) publicly expressed his willingness to come to China and negotiate. We had made no response. It would not have been proper for a state so antagonistic. Therefore, we agreed to (presidential adviser Henry) Kissinger's coming.

"For us, it is all right if the talks succeed and it is all right if they fail," Chou said.

At this point, about 30 minutes before a simultaneous announcement was to be made in Washington and Peking about Kissinger's second trip to Peking, Chou told the Americans of the presidential assistant's visit.

"This time Kissinger is coming openly," Chou said.

The Chinese premier said China's willingness to negotiate was nothing new. "We did this (negotiate) with the archenemy Chiang Kai-shek for almost 10 years."

Although critical of the stationing of Russian troops on the Chinese borders, Chou said China's basic policy is to negotiate with Moscow.

"There are 1 million troops on our borders — army, air force, naval units in the coastal areas, nuclear weapons and guided missiles," Chou said. "They have sent 300,000 troops into the Peoples Republic of Mongolia, including missile units. The Mongolian government did not behave like the Czechs, so what is the purpose? It obviously is against China, to create a state of tension along our borders.

"Nevertheless, our policy is to negotiate to solve the boundary questions and bring about good neighborly relations," Chou said.

Even though the 19th Century territorial treaties imposed on China by the Czarists were unequal and did not agree with China's maps, Chou said that with a few exceptions those treaties should serve as a basis for continued negotiations.

No Threat to Long Island

"As for us, we do not like armed struggle and we do not provoke others. Not only have we not gone to Long Island, we have not gone to Honolulu. Even with the U.S. Navy in the Taiwan Strait, we are for negotiations," he said.

Chou said, "If we are only prepared for negotiations without preparing against armed war, that is not good. If a war is launched against China, what should be do? How have we prepared? It may sound impossible to our friends, but we must think of it.

"We are ready. We are building underground tunnels, and this has been done in every big and small city.

"Only when one dares to engage in war, can one negotiate, and if one wants peaceful negotiations, he must be prepared

Chou briefly mentioned the United Nations situation, saying there had been no change from the Foreign Ministry statement issued Aug. 20—China firmly opposes two Chinas, one China, one Taiwan; and any independent Taiwan. All were unacceptable, he said, and if anything the third even less so.

Chou said, however, he hopes to see more Americans visiting China. "More and more have been coming," he said. "Though Japanese visitors have been the most numerous, the number of Americans coming should catch up with them in the 1970s."